

# FORESTRY News



A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

Fall 2009

**MISSION:** "We Protect and Develop Healthy, Sustainable Forest Resources for Virginians."

## CONGRESSMAN TOM PERRIELLO VISITS HUDDLESTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

*Justin Dillon, technician, Bedford County*

The Virginia Department of Forestry, along with the Bedford Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police, participated in an open house at Bedford's Huddleston Volunteer Fire Department on June 20, 2009.

Along with the Department of Forestry came Smokey Bear, who helped relay fire prevention messages to the many families and children who attended the event. In addition, Technician Justin Dillon and Forester Todd Kready provided the public and local landowners with information on safe debris burning, forest and land management, as well as information on the many other services the department offers to the residents of Virginia.

As an additional bonus, Virginia's 5<sup>th</sup> District Congressman, Tom Perriello, stopped by to show his appreciation and support for the services provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), Bedford County Fire and Rescue, and local law enforcement.

Additional information on fire safety, state burning laws, and forest and land management can be found on the Web at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov). or by contacting the local Bedford County Forestry office at 540-586-3109.



*Left to right: Justin Dillon, VDOF; Smokey; Congressman Perriello, and Todd Kready, VDOF.*

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Carl Garrison III, State Forester

Janet Muncy, Editor



## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FORESTER

Carl Garrison



I'm beginning to wonder whether I should have another official portrait taken to accompany my column. I think the current one, with the requisite smile, doesn't reflect the tone of the last few columns or all the additional gray hair! You see, it seems to me that all I've been able to write about lately is doom and gloom, and while today's column will be more of the same, I will be sure to add some positive information this time.

So that I can end on a good note, let's first address the bad news. Governor Kaine announced last week the fourth adjustment to the biennial budget. Because of lagging revenues, the Commonwealth was forced to reduce the state budget by nearly \$1.5 billion. Our share of that cut was just over \$1.6 million – a nearly 10 percent reduction. When you add this to the cut we experienced in December, our Agency budget has been reduced more than 25 percent in less than 10 months. And, as you well know, we didn't have any "fluff" in the budget to start with. This makes every reduction a direct cut to our core and requires that we rethink how we protect and serve the citizens of Virginia. The reduction strategies we will implement won't make anyone happy, that's for sure. And they certainly won't improve morale. But the alternative was far worse.

If we were not authorized to implement the cuts we had to recommend to the Governor, this 10 percent reduction would have meant the elimination of 28 full-time VDOF employees (and we have only 265 full-time employees in the Agency). Think about that for a moment. We would lose one employee for every 9.5 employees we have. I, for one, shudder at the thought that such a toll would take on us. So, over the next few months as we work to implement the budget reduction strategies and you feel the pain these cuts are inflicting upon us, please think about how much more painful the loss of your job would have been to you, and remember the many good part-time employees who are no longer serving with us due to the budget reduction. Their talents and the work they did in service to the Commonwealth were testaments to their character, and we were fortunate to have worked side by side with them. They will be missed!

In spite of all this negativity, we do have some things to which we can point with pride. Earlier this year, the Virginia Forestry Association recognized the good works of three of our own. Lisa Deaton was honored with the Association's Distinguished Service Award. Charlie Knoeller was named Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. And the chairman of the Virginia Board of Forestry, C. Harrell Turner, received the VFA President's Award. The Appalachian division of the Society of American Foresters presented its Merit Award to David Powell, and 46 VDOF employees (see page 15) were recognized with Service Awards by the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, Fred Turck was honored by the USFS for the new Smokey book he helped create; John Carroll is the recipient of the SAF Fellow Award for outstanding service, and we've received numerous letters of appreciation from people who have been the beneficiaries of our services. So, even though doom and gloom captures the headlines, you are still performing your jobs well and people and organizations are recognizing your efforts. Please keep up the good work!



## NATURAL RESOURCES COLLEGE FOR EDUCATORS

*Zach Olinger, forest management and education specialist, Matthews State Forest*

With the implementation of SOLs in Virginia's School systems, many teachers find it harder and harder to get their students out of the classroom. Teachers have begun to find themselves teaching "standardized materials" that prepare students for the tests, but actually teach little else. Most public school teachers are aware of this trend, but because of pressures put on them by this system, lack alternatives to classroom book work. A group of progressive teachers from southwest Virginia made the most of an opportunity to learn some activities that will meet their SOL objectives while engaging students in hands-on activities outside of the classroom.

The Natural Resources College For Educators, hosted at the Matthews State Forest, involved a collaboration between the Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Skyline and New River Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The four days of teacher workshops spanned July 28-31, and drew a variety of educators that included high school, middle and elementary teachers from four counties, a 4-H agent and a pair of park interpreters.

The teachers participated in one day each of Project Learning Tree, Project WET and Project WILD. Each of these three days provided multiple SOL-correlated activities for use in their classrooms, and a chance for the teachers to get outside and see first hand how the activities can benefit their students and programs. The fourth and final day of the workshop was titled the Environmental Knowledge Field Workshop. This was a day specifically designed to expand the teachers' background knowledge of forestry, aquatics and wildlife, so that they can more effectively teach these topic areas and use the activities provided in the previous days. Just like in a group of school kids, the excitement was evident in this group of adults as they got spend the day in the woods and creeks learning or relearning about our natural resources. And even though it rained a better part of the day, their enthusiasm for what they were doing was never dampened.

There were no kids at the Natural Resources College for Educators, but many students will benefit from it for a long time to come. It is reassuring to know that there are dedicated teachers who care enough to take time from their summer vacation to improve what they can offer to students. The teachers involved had a great time and hopefully picked up some things that will benefit their students. They also had an opportunity to see the value of Virginia's State Forests, educationally and ecologically.



*Teachers attended outdoor classroom workshops.*



*Teachers searching for macroinvertebrates from Clear Fork Creek.*



## VFA PRESIDENT'S AWARD GOES TO HARRELL TURNER

*Reprinted from Virginia's Forests*



Virginia Forestry Association Past President Easton Loving selected Harrell Turner to receive the 2009 VFA President's Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership, dedicated service to the association, and outstanding support to the president. Turner is chairman of the Virginia Board of Forestry.

Turner graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in forestry in 1971 and began a 33-year career with Union Camp/International Paper until retiring in 2004. Upon his retirement, Turner formed CHT Forestry LLC, a forestry consulting business.

Loving began his presentation by comparing Turner's values and morals to that of Sheriff Andy Taylor of the Andy Griffith television show. A fitting comparison since Turner provided an excellent impersonation of Sheriff Taylor at a VFA annual convention held at Mountain Lake in 2005.

Turner has been extremely active in his community and as a VFA member. He served on the Town Council of Boykins for five years, and served on the Southampton County Board of Supervisors for 12 years. He is a past president of the Airfield 4-H Center. As a VFA member, Turner served as President in 2005-2006 and has chaired several committees, including government relations, nominations, personnel, and the annual convention.

In his presentation, Loving praised Turner's service as chairman of the Biomass Task Force in 2008 that wrote VFA's position statement on biomass and biofuels. Loving also cited Turner's tenure and service on the Virginia Board of Forestry, where he's in his second term as chair.

## CHARLIE KNOELLER WINS TREE FARM INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR

*Matthew Coleman, technician, Westmoreland County*

Charlie Knoeller, forester for Westmoreland and Richmond counties, was named 2008 Virginia Tree Farm Inspector of the Year on April 24 at the Virginia Forestry Association's annual conference. The event took place at the Marriott Waterfront in Norfolk. Charlie accepted his award – a nice plaque with a gift certificate to Bass Pro Shops – while attending the meeting with his wife, Kathryn. He has been an active Tree Farm Inspector for more than 20 years. The recognition shows Charlie's dedication to the program and commitment to his landowners. He thanked committee chairman Rob Wait, co-chair Rich Steensma and regional chair Matt Coleman for making this possible.



*L to R: Charlie Knoeller, Matt Coleman*



## LISA DEATON RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*Reprinted from Virginia's Forests*

VFA presented the Distinguished Service Award to Lisa Deaton at its annual convention in Norfolk. The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1984 as a prestigious award to be given on special occasions to recognize significant contributions to forestry or related resources in Virginia.

Deaton has guided the Project Learning Tree (PLT) program for the state for 10 years. PLT in Virginia is cosponsored by VFA, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), and the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech. Virginia PLT hosted the national PLT convention in 2006 in Virginia Beach, and Deaton was a guiding force in the success of this convention.

Deaton was awarded the Gold Star award, PLT's highest honor, by Kathy McGlaufflin, Vice President – Education, with the American Forest Foundation at the Virginia Beach convention. McGlaufflin was on hand in Norfolk at the VFA convention to help us surprise and honor Deaton. Deaton was recently named to the National Operating Committee for PLT, a prestigious honor that requires election by her peers across the country.

VFA Past President Easton Loving shared the following comments from educators and co-workers who have been touched by Deaton's work in his presentation of the award: "She has been a dedicated environmental educator for more than 20 years. She has helped children and adults understand the importance of caring for our forests." "She reaches out on a person-to-person level with all educators through the lines up to the agency heads. She is truly a pleasure to work with and an asset to VDOF. She's open-minded, practical yet creative, and adaptable to many situations thrown her way. She goes out of her way to help people, and I'm always hearing compliments about her – from individual assistance she has given someone, to big events she has helped to make successful."

Deaton is developing the educational programs for the VDOF's Forestry Education Center at New Kent and has been working with the Department's Buildings and Grounds team to repurpose the grading facility at New Kent to an indoor classroom facility.

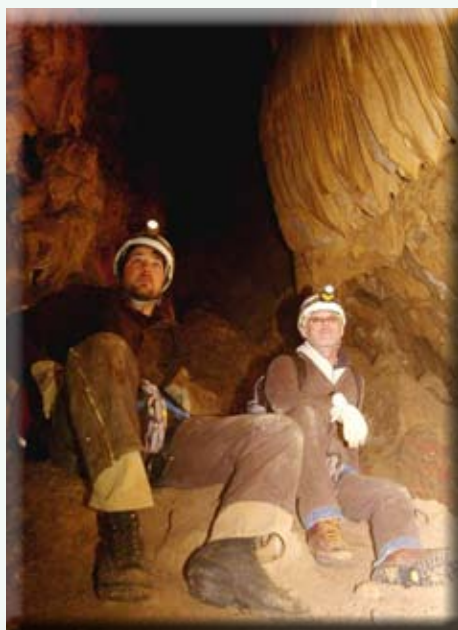


*Left to right: Carl Garrison; Lisa Deaton, Paul Howe, Kathy McGlaufflin and Dr. Paul Winistorfer.*



## FORESTRY “DOWN UNDER”

*Bob Boeren, forester,  
Boetourt, Craig and Roanoke  
counties, Western Region*



*Jon Willoughby (left) and Bob  
Boeren (right).*



*Bat draperies.*

Working for VDOF can drive you “batty” as Jon Willoughby and I recently learned when we joined Dan and Marian McConnell in exploring a private cave historically known as “Murder Hole”. Dan and Marian McConnell are well-respected cave conservationists and recent forest stewardship landowners.

We were offering them some insights about forest management when they invited us for an up-close and personal look at their underground playground. There are several stories about how “Murder Hole” cave got its name. One story says that a tinker with his horse-drawn cart was traveling through with his wares and was murdered by a farmer who stole all his goods and sent the evidence hurtling into the cave. In the late 1950s a caver died tragically in a rappel when his manila rope broke as he was descending into the cave entrance and fell more than 100 feet. Many newspaper articles have been written about people having to be rescued out of “Murder Hole” because they were unprepared for vertical caving. Yes, this is not a horizontal cave, but one that is straight down.

“Murder Hole” cave is more than 230 feet deep and 1,000 feet long. The cave has three main levels. The first level is the daylighted portion of the cave that formed when the roof of its large room collapsed, leaving a hole 135 feet deep and 100 feet wide at the top. Jon and I started our descent with a free rappel of 110 feet to the bottom of the daylighted portion of the cave. Next, we went through an area known as the “fat man’s” squeeze. After literally squeezing through a small hole in the rock, we entered the second level of the cave that dropped another 30 feet. However, to descend these 30 feet, you have to go down a formation known as the “ski slope”. Jon and I had to be careful and stayed to the left because a substantial hole opened up to the right and into the third level 75 feet below. This hole could not be seen and I lost my footing and almost fell into the hole, but I held onto my rope and was able to swing back into position. The third level, that Jon and I did not attempt, was a free rappel that went down another 75 feet.

Usually, this third level contains water that at times is too deep to stand in. The other cavers that went with us and descended into this third level said it was dry.

We observed several formations of stalagmites and stalactites known as the “tobacco shed”, “sword in the stone”, and “popcorn palace”. There were also rim pools, helectites and columns. There were also wildlife, such as little and large brown bats, gray bats (endangered species), salamanders, cave crickets and frogs, in the cave.

Once Jon and I emerged into the daylighted portion of the cave, we did not climb the 110 foot rope straight up but rock climbed up and out of the cave. I thought our adventure would take about two hours, but we were in the cave for about six hours. The physical exertion required made being on a fireline look easy.



## FORESTRY DOWN UNDER, FROM PAGE 6...

Karst topography is a valuable resource that we very seldom get the opportunity to learn about first hand and then incorporate into our forest management plans. The McConnell's are passionate about caving and happy to take other interested cavers into the "Murder Hole".

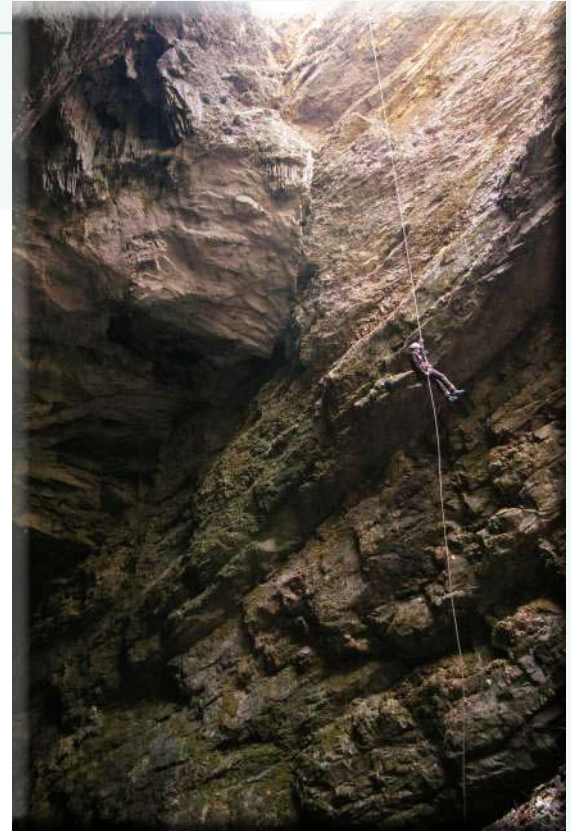
They are true stewards and strictly enforce cave safety and conservation. They are also members of the Blue Ridge Grotto and the National Speleological Society. It was one day on the job that I did not mind being kept "in the dark!"

As a side note, VDGIF sent out a press release April 2, 2009, that confirmed two Virginia caves (Breathing Cave in Bath County and Clover Hollow Cave in Giles County) had the presence of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats. White Nose Syndrome, or WNS, is named for a white fungus that appears on the faces, ears, wings and feet of hibernating bats. Scientists are trying to determine how WNS affects bats. The disease causes bats to come out of hibernation severely underweight.

In a desperate attempt to avoid starving, the affected bats are often seen flying during the day. They are looking for food, but the insects they normally eat in the spring are not yet available. Once a colony is affected, the fungus spreads rapidly and may kill 90 percent of bats at the hibernation site in just two years. Some WNS caves in New York have experienced declines of more than 90 percent of the bat populations.

Given these recent findings, VDGIF, and the McConnell's, are emphasizing that recreational cavers refrain from entering caves. WNS may be unknowingly transferred from one cave or mine to another on the footwear and gear of humans. VDGIF has closed the caves on its wildlife management areas. Because of the potential impact of WNS, the VDGIF urges cavers and cave owners to help Virginia's bat populations by reducing cave traffic until more is learned about this syndrome.

Under the 12-month closure order signed by USDA Forest Service Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa on May 21, 2009, most caves and mines on National Forests in the southeastern United States are being closed in an effort to protect bats from WNS.



*Jon Willoughby descends down the rope.*



## TREES TO PRODUCTS TOUR

*David Richert, RC&D forester, Western Region*

For the past four years, the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters has hosted a four-day "Trees to Products" tour for teachers from across the Commonwealth. This tour, centered in Wise County takes teachers through all the links in the trees-to-products chain, including several forest management sites, an active logging job, a variety of sawmills, and a paper plant. The goal is that more of Virginia's teachers will have personal experiences with forestry on which to base their forestry lessons, improving their effectiveness and adding to the students' learning experience.

This year, the Virginia Department of Forestry assisted with the "Trees to Products" tour by providing a van driver and forester to help cover some of the many forestry subjects "taught" in the three-day course. This year's tour was well-attended, with 12 teachers from across the Commonwealth participating. Represented in the group of teachers were elementary school teachers, high school agriculture and science teachers, and also the Governor's School program. Many of the teachers were on their second or third careers, so there was a wealth of experience in the van, and the van driver probably did more learning than teaching!



*Teachers learn how to use a Biltmore stick to estimate tree height.*



*Teachers learn how to use a Biltmore stick to estimate dbh.*

The first half of the tour focused on sustainable forest management. With the help of several assistants, tour leader Bill Worrell (Virginia Cooperative Extension and former VDOF forester) interpreted a number of forest management sites. The teachers learned the forest types in Virginia; the silvicultural requirements of Appalachian hardwood species; typical volume growth rates; the benefits and liabilities of prescribed fire, and the role of trees in mine land reclamation. This was just the first afternoon – more advanced lessons had the teachers measuring trees with Biltmore sticks; estimating timber volume; learning about watersheds and riparian buffers, and even conducting a regeneration survey. A "teachable moment" emerged when the teachers reported natural hardwood regeneration was upwards of 20,000 seedlings per acre.

At an active logging job (a USDA Forest Service project), the teachers learned about Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality, and various harvest prescriptions, and harvesting methods. While watching the men and women at work, the group discussed the economic costs of logging — insurance costs, fuel costs, equipment breakdowns and "down" time due to unfavorable weather. The teachers noted other costs, too — the hazardous working environment, demanding physical requirements and long hours.



## TREES TO PRODUCTS TOUR, FROM PAGE 8...

At this same logging site, the group discussed the threats facing Virginia's forests, especially the thousands of acres of forestland in Virginia "lost" every year when forests are converted to other land uses. Tour organizers showed how economic benefits from logging can help prevent the conversion of working forestland to other uses. Whether or not the group left the site with the shared fondness for logging, we all left with a deeper appreciation for the efforts required to produce the forest products that society uses daily.

The second half of the tour was just as fascinating, highlighting the production aspects of forest products. The group witnessed high-end cabinet making from medium-density fiberboard (MDF), and the milling of hardwood logs for flooring. The tour participants were sweating the dry kiln part of the tour but, fortunately, this was the briefest stop on the tour! Other stops included a tour of the Mullican hardwood flooring millworks production line, and the conclusion of the four-day tour with a tour of the Domtar paper-making plant just across the line in Kingsport, TN.

Of particular interest to the teachers (and the van driver) was the level of automation that goes into the production of paper, flooring or cabinets. At the Domtar paper sheeting facility, the teachers watched in amazement as hundreds of reams of paper were mechanically counted out, stacked neatly, wrapped with a ream wrapper, boxed and palletized ready for shipping every minute. I don't think any of us on the tour will ever load a copier or printer with paper without recalling the seemingly endless line of reams rolling down these automated lines and into boxes. Similarly, the Mullican Flooring millworks facility was a maze of automated handling equipment, designed to maximize the efficiency of production. This automation is almost hypnotizing, and the van driver had to be pulled away (literally) more than once.

The tour itinerary was packed full — teaching opportunities were squeezed into every available time slot, with each day running until well after 8 p.m. Although three days is not very much time, all the teachers left Southwest Virginia with a very thorough introduction to forest resource management and the forest products industry. All of the teachers indicated they would strongly recommend the program to their peers, and the Southwest Virginia SAF Chapter is anticipating another successful "Trees to Products" tour in 2010. In the meantime, another 12 teachers have the benefit of experience as the best teacher.



*A log scaling exercise at Powell River Lumber Company.*



*Mullican Lumber's Jim Myers does some quality control on a piece of hardwood flooring.*



## VDOF REPRESENTED AT CAROLINE COUNTY FAIR

*David Houttekier, technician,  
Caroline County, Eastern  
Region*

The Virginia Department of Forestry's Firewise trailer was displayed prominently at the center of the Caroline County Agricultural Fair this July 23-26.

The event, which was held at its new permanent site approximately two miles north of Carmel Church, was well attended this year as fairgoers enjoyed clear but hot weather. Fair officials estimated that 7,000 people attended this year's event, and it seemed as though most of them stopped by the Firewise display that was set up at the entrance to the livestock tent. This proved to be a good location for us to speak with citizens about fire prevention.



*Matthew Coleman provides  
fire prevention messages to  
fairgoers.*

*Young fairgoers enjoy being a  
firefighter in the Hummer.*



Matthew Coleman and David Houttekier answered questions and handed out many giveaway items. The Firewise trailer, which has been a mainstay at the fair for the past three to four years, was requested at the last minute by fair officials. They said that ever since the trailer has been at the event, they have heard many positive comments. The Department's Hummer was also displayed and still receives a lot of attention

from onlookers. (Thanks to Fred Turck for providing a first-class display!)

These comments reiterate the fact that our services are as important and relevant today as they have ever been and we will continue to attend as many local events as possible.

## ARSONIST TORCHES VDOF FIRE VEHICLE; REWARD OFFERED

As fall fire season approaches, it's going to be a bit more difficult to respond to a wildfire in Franklin County after someone intentionally set fire to the cab of a vehicle the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) uses to transport its fireplow.

On Friday evening (Sept. 11th), Agency personnel secured the vehicle on a tract of forestland in preparation for a prescribed burn scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14th. The land is near the intersection of Sontag Road and Goode Mountain Road (approximately eight miles southeast of Rocky Mount and about 2 miles in on Goode Mountain Road). On Saturday, officials were contacted by the landowner who reported the fire damage to the 2007 Sterling transport vehicle. The vehicle is a total loss.



*continued on page 16*



## DAVID POWELL RECEIVED APPALACHIAN SAF MERIT AWARD

*Rodney Newlin, water quality engineer, Central Region*

David Powell received the 2009 Appalachian SAF Merit Award at the Virginia Division SAF summer meeting in Blacksburg. (The actual presentation of the award occurred several weeks later as David was not able to attend the meeting due to the birth of David and Ellen's baby girl, Rowan Grace.)

The Merit Award is presented to a forester who has exhibited continuous and meritorious service at the Division and Chapter level. The recipient must be a member in good standing who has worked in the forestry profession at least five years, demonstrated a degree of professional leadership, exhibited continuous and meritorious service in society activities, and through his/her example has furthered the objectives of the forestry profession.

David received his B.S. degree in forest resources from N.C. State in 1990 and his M.S. degree in industrial forestry operations from Virginia Tech in 1992. David is an assistant regional forester in the Central Region at the Charlottesville office; he has been with VDOF since 1992.

David's record of professional forestry involvement with SAF throughout his career is outstanding. He has held many leadership roles and attended the 2005 National SAF Leadership Academy. His leadership roles include being chair of the Rappahannock Chapter, VA Division treasurer, and co-chair of the 1997 APSAF Annual Meeting. An accomplishment of particular note was serving as chair of the SAF Appalachian Society in 2006. David's efforts have continued as he is an active member of the Skyline Chapter. Congratulations, David, on a well-deserved award!



## VDOF ASSISTS WITH JUNIOR RANGER DAYS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

*Denny McCarthy, assistant regional forester, Western Region*

Neil Brooks participated in a (National) Junior Ranger Days on April 25 and June 13, sponsored by the Booker T. Washington USNPS National Monument in Franklin County. The purpose of the program was to introduce kids (ages 6-12) and their parents to the roles and responsibilities of park rangers, and other Natural Resource and Law Enforcement agencies. Each Junior Ranger receives a badge for participating in the program. Thanks to Neil for taking the time to get the VDOF out in front of his community.





## VIRGINIA'S PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL CONVENES FOR THE FIRST TIME

*Fred Turck, assistant director,  
Resource Protection Division*

The first general meeting of Virginia's Prescribed Fire Council (VPFC) met in Charlottesville at the VDOF Headquarters on July 21, 2009. Almost 60 people were in attendance representing 20 different agencies, organizations, associations and individuals.

Deputy State Forester John Carroll provided a welcome, some background on the council, and addressed the importance of professionalism and prescribed fire manager program. He added that the primary mission and first objective of the council should be communication among prescribed fire users and stakeholders in Virginia.

Fred Turck provided a brief history of fire use in Virginia with some quotes about first peoples' fire, hunting and fishing. He addressed the mission and objectives of VPFC. In addition to the communication objective among prescribed fire users, John Carroll talked about the need to be communicating with the public as well and that we should unify in promoting public understanding of prescribed burning! He addressed the current members and introduced the Council's Steering Committee: Mark Puckett (DGIF), Rick Myers (DCR), Shep Zedaker (VT), Sam Lindblom (TNC), Barry Garten (USFS), Don Savedge (NPS), Tim Craig (FWS) and Fred Turck (VDOF). Fred introduced the group to the National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils and noted that most of the states were in the eastern and southern US. There are 26 Prescribed Fire Councils formed. Air quality is national issue No. 1 and many believe that EPA regulations may increase the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire, very similar to the blame some want to attribute to the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention campaign.

The main presentation and focus of this first meeting, in addition to the introduction of the council itself, was "Air Quality Challenges in Virginia" and Cindy Huber (Air Resource Specialist with the USFS) made a presentation addressing this issue.

Cindy noted that we needed to communicate and work closely with the VADEQ and introduced Tom Ballou and Tom Foster. She outlined the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – and addressed the potential conflicts with more prescribed burning. She emphasized the need to participate in air quality programs; Ms. Huber stated that

the EPA and DEQ recognize importance of fire. It was stated that we have a good record in VA of smoke issues/incidents. She noted that there was a "SMOC" interagency federal group looking at prescribed burning issues. Cindy stated that in a recent inventory for particulate matter 2.5 - wildland fire (including prescribed fire) contribution to pollution was < 3%. States develop air pollution implementation plans; develop open burning regulations, and local ordinances. And that everyone must comply with state air quality regulations, but not local regulations. The question was asked if the federal agencies must comply? Answer: Yes. Cindy went on to say that localities cannot supersede the state air quality regulations. It was also noted that the VA open burning regulations were updated March 18, 2009. Huber reiterated a need to do a better job of documenting P-burns. She listed the important things to consider: name, county, date, acres burned (actual), fuel





## VIRGINIA'S PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL CONVENES... FROM PAGE 12...

type, fuel loading, 10-hour fuel model and method of firing. A question was asked: should this data be reported to the DEQ? The folks from the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) quickly answered yes VADEQ is interested in burners doing so. Where does current data come from? Who is going to collect it? How often? Many questions were generated with this discussion. Fred Turck stated this is one of the reasons we are here, that is to do a better job of communicating and this issue of data collection across all agencies, groups, and organizations will be one of our first challenges.

A brief report was given by each of the steering committee members and then others in attendance were given the opportunity to comment. The American Forest Foundation, SAGF, ACF, VA Quail Council and the Army Corp of Engineers were some who addressed the group.

This meeting was a tremendous success – a real positive step for resource management in Virginia. The challenges are many, but, collaboratively, we will meet those challenges.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Virginia Prescribed Fire Council is to foster cooperation among all parties in Virginia with an interest or stake in prescribed fire for the purpose of optimizing burning opportunities for the benefit of natural ecosystems and wildlife and to reduce the risk of damage from wildfires. This will be accomplished by encouraging the exchange of information, techniques and experiences among practitioners of prescribed fire in Virginia and by promoting public understanding of the regional importance and benefits of prescribed fire.

### Objectives

1. Provide a framework for communications regarding prescribed fire objectives, techniques and issues.
2. Reviews prescribed fire problems and suggests courses of action.
3. Promote the safe and responsible use of prescribed fire.
4. Disseminate technical information.
5. Promote the development and utilization of prescribed fire practices commensurate with desirable environmental resource management.
6. Promote public understanding of the benefits of prescribed fire.

### Web Site

[www.prescribedfireva.org](http://www.prescribedfireva.org)





### WELCOME!

**Matt Gordon** is our new technician for Buchanan County in the Western Region. He received his associate's degree in forest management from Montgomery Community College in North Carolina. Most recently, Matt worked as a wildlife technician for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He is also a trained wildland firefighter.

**Lisa Burke** is our new New Kent Conference Center coordinator and will be handling all the reservations for the center.

### NEW ARRIVALS!

**Kristi Woodie**, Headquarters receptionist, and Eric Bibb welcomed a baby boy to their family. Hunter Ray Bass Bibb was born July 24, at 7:03 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces. All are doing great!

**Karen Stanley**, Rockbridge County forester in the Western Region, and husband, Tom, welcomed a second son to their family. Colin Finnegan – known as Finn – was born July 26, at 8:20 a.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Mom, Dad, big brother Roman, and baby Finn are all doing great!

**Eddie Embrey**, retired technician for Nelson County in the Central Region, has a new grandson. His daughter, Melanie, gave birth to baby River Lynn on July 28.

### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Harvey Darden**, Chesapeake City forester in the Eastern Region, transferred to the Southampton County forester position. His transfer was effective Monday, July 20.

**Debbie Luna** transferred from the program support technician position for the Central Region into the program support technician position for the General Services Division at Headquarters, effective July 13.

**Chad Stover** will be the acting Water Quality Specialist working between the Central and Western Regions effective October 1. He is covering the position vacated by Ben Parsons. Thank you, Chad, for stepping in to cover the duties of this position.

### DEPARTURES

**Thomas Mallory**, building and grounds supervisor in the General Services Division, left VDOF to accept a position with the Greene County Public School System.

**Jana Maynard**, program support technician in the Western Region, left VDOF to move to Carroll County.

**Chris Owens**, Dickenson County technician in the Western Region, left VDOF to accept a position with Clintwood High School.

**John Scrivani**, director of Resource Information at Headquarters, left VDOF to accept a job with VITA.

**Tanya White**, program support technician in the Eastern Region, is leaving VDOF as of September 18.

**Crys Gaston**, New Kent Conference Center coordinator, has left VDOF. Best wishes to Crys.

**Bryan Litchfield**, FIA specialist in the Eastern Region, is leaving VDOF to accept a position with the Department of Homeland Security. His last day with us is Thursday, September 24.

### CONDOLENCES

**Mike Stoneburner**, building and grounds, and **Paul Stoneburner**, Madison County technician in the Central Region, on the death of their father. Douglas Stoneburner was 84 years old and retired from the City of Charlottesville Fire Department. A memorial service will be held September 26 with a private burial.

**James Starr**, retired director of forest management, on the death of his mother July 22.

**Loma Jean Lambert**, retired program support technician, on the death of her mother, Ernestine Alberti, August 3 at age 88.

**Joe Vaughan**, retired chief forest warden, died August 9 of natural causes at age 86. He was chief forest warden in Louisa County from July 16, 1949 until October 1, 1987.

**Pam Spivey**, Northrop-Grumman/VITA specialist, located in VDOF Headquarters, on the sudden death of her husband, Laurence "Larry" C. Spivey, 53, who died September 5.



### SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to our 2009 service award recipients!

**5 Years:** Thomas Callahan  
Jessica Carroll  
Wanda Colvin  
Justin Hancock  
Jack Kauffman  
Bill Lakel  
Terry Lasher  
Shannon Lewis  
Russell Proctor  
Joe Street  
Jon Willoughby  
Tom Zaebs

**10 Years:** Drew Arnn  
Trent Badgley  
Edwina Blalock  
Tracy McDonald

**15 Years:** Dennis McCarthy  
Janet Muncy  
Gerald Shifflett  
David Stone  
Becky Woodson

**20 Years:** Faye DiFazio  
Greg Farrish  
Carl Garrison  
David Jones  
Charlie Knoeller  
Leslie Mace  
Tommy Nunnally  
Wayne Perfater  
Avond Randolph

Anne Skalski  
Alan Sutherlin  
Woody Washington

**25 Years:** Donnie Davis  
Toni Noreika  
Amy Ricotta  
Dave Terwilliger

**30 Years:** John Carroll  
Larry Mikkelson  
Matt Poirot  
Dave Snyder  
Henry Womack

**35 Years:** Richard Holman  
Donna Hoy  
Bonnie Ragland  
Mike Stoneburner

*Happy Birthday*

Avond Randolph ~ 9/1 (SF)  
Angela L. Conary ~ 9/2 (ER)  
Michael A. Santucci ~ 9/3 (CR)  
Earl Bobby Atkins ~ 9/4 (Ret)  
William B. Neff ~ 9/5 (WR)  
David E. Bruce ~ 9/6 (HQ)  
Charlene O. Bardon ~ 9/7 (CR)  
James E. Bowen ~ 9/7 (Ret)  
Judith A. Okay ~ 9/8 (HQ)  
Alton L. Dean ~ 9/9 (FC)  
Randy A. Short ~ 9/9 (WR)  
Calvin E. Ricks ~ 9/12 (Ret)  
Larry J. Cochran ~ 9/12 (Ret)  
Antonia Noreika ~ 9/14 (ER)  
H. Gwynn Tyler ~ 9/14 (CR)  
Bryan R. Litchfield ~ 9/16 (HQ)  
C. Newsome ~ 9/16 (Ret)  
Charles H. Knoeller ~ 9/16 (ER)  
Donald G. Drake ~ 9/16 (Ret)  
Jason T. McGhee ~ 9/16 (WR)  
George T. Hendrick ~ 9/17 (HQ)  
Dirk D. Hillegass ~ 9/20 (CR)

Robert K. Boeren ~ 9/21 (WR)  
W. Alex Williamson ~ 9/21 (CR)  
Joseph W. Schaefer ~ 9/23 (HQ)  
Herbert Reynolds ~ 9/26 (CR)  
Harvey Darden ~ 9/27 (ER)  
Jeffrey W. Stout ~ 10/2 (HQ)  
June M. Flora ~ 10/3 (HQ)  
David W. Tolliver ~ 10/4 (WR)  
Karen E. Snape ~ 10/5 (ER)  
Neil A. Brooks ~ 10/5 (WR)  
Erik P. Filep ~ 10/6 (CR)  
Richard T. Thomas ~ 10/6 (HQ)  
C. Brian Ledford ~ 10/8 (WR)  
William L. Apperson ~ 10/8 (ER)  
William J. Shoup ~ 10/11 (ER)  
J. Ryan Hewitt ~ 10/12 (HQ)  
Nelson J. Shaw ~ 10/12 (CR)  
R. Randy Fleming ~ 10/12 (WR)  
Lewis E. Rhodes ~ 10/15 (CR)  
Chad D. Stover ~ 10/16 (CR)  
Timothy C. Tignor ~ 10/16 (Ret)  
William Shockley ~ 10/17 (Ret)  
J. Bruce Edwards ~ 10/18 (ER)  
Larry Mikkelson ~ 10/19 (HQ)  
Robert K. Lewis ~ 10/19 (ER)  
Thomas E. Harlan ~ 10/19 (ER)  
Steve E. Coleman ~ 10/22 (ER)  
Pamela J. Gibson ~ 10/23 (HQ)  
Mike Stoneburner ~ 10/24 (HQ)

G. Thomas Nunnally ~ 10/25 (ER)  
Paul D. Stoneburner ~ 10/25 (CR)  
R. Dean Lowdermilk ~ 10/25 (FC)  
Frederick X. Turck ~ 10/30 (HQ)  
Gregory S. Estoll ~ 11/1 (WR)  
Vance L. Coffey ~ 11/1 (SF)  
Tony L. Taylor ~ 11/5 (HQ)  
Tracy D. McDonald ~ 11/7 (HQ)  
Daniel C. Roberts ~ 11/10 (CR)  
Gregory A. Farrish ~ 11/10 (HQ)  
Onesphore Bitoki ~ 11/10 (HQ)  
Ryne D. Conley ~ 11/11 (CR)  
Jeffrey J. Darr ~ 11/12 (ER)  
T. Nelson Hillyer ~ 11/12 (ER)  
James W. Garner ~ 11/13 (Ret)  
L. Gerald Shifflett ~ 11/18 (HQ)  
Matthew M. Poirot ~ 11/19 (HQ)  
Kevin S. Dawson ~ 11/20 (CR)  
Faye E. Difazio ~ 11/23 (HQ)  
Stuart L. Sours ~ 11/23 (WR)  
M. Ann Irving ~ 11/25 (Ret)  
Matthew Spencer ~ 11/25 (WR)  
Bonnie Q. Ragland ~ 11/29 (HQ)  
Edward H. Zimmer ~ 11/30 (CR)  
James E. Cook ~ 11/30 (Ret)  
Thomas Pleasants ~ 12/1 (Ret)  
Leslie C. Mace ~ 12/5 (CR)  
William B. Carlton ~ 12/6 (ER)  
Lewis F. Southard ~ 12/7 (Ret)

Patricia F. Nylander ~ 12/7 (CR)  
Jason T. Upton ~ 12/9 (ER)  
Robert W. Stempel ~ 12/9 (ER)  
Tanya J. White ~ 12/9 (ER)  
John C. Hisghman ~ 12/11 (CR)  
Wayne F. Bowman ~ 12/12 (HQ)  
William E. Perry ~ 12/12 (CR)  
Justin E. Funk ~ 12/13 (CR)  
Donald L. Foster ~ 12/14 (Ret)  
James F. Wagner ~ 12/14 (Ret)  
Jeffrey L. Hensley ~ 12/14 (HQ)  
James H. Blackwell ~ 12/17 (ER)  
Daniel B. Fortune ~ 12/18 (HQ)  
David K. Nabers ~ 12/18 (HQ)  
Ronald S. Jenkins ~ 12/18 (HQ)  
Henry E. Womack ~ 12/21 (CR)  
Carl E. Garrison ~ 12/22 (HQ)  
Everette L. Kline ~ 12/22 (HQ)  
R. Brad Whittington ~ 12/23 (CR)  
James W. Bright ~ 12/24 (Ret)  
W. Chad Austin ~ 12/26 (WR)  
Ellen R. Powell ~ 12/27 (HQ)  
Thomas Callahan ~ 12/28 (HQ)  
Joyce M. Landram ~ 12/3 (FC)  
John M. Carroll ~ 12/30 (HQ)  
Thomas W. Reeves ~ 12/30 (CR)  
Walter Washington ~ 12/30 (Ret)  
J. Riley Bruce ~ 12/31 (WR)  
Patrick M. Murphy ~ 12/31 (CR)



### ARSONIST TORCHES VDOF FIRE VEHICLE... FROM PAGE 10...

The VDOF has posted a reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the person or persons involved. Anyone with information regarding this crime is encouraged to contact the Virginia State Police at 540/375-9547 and ask to leave a message for Special Agent Garland Snead.

"This criminal act only endangers the people of Franklin County. Anytime someone intentionally damages or destroys the Commonwealth's emergency response equipment, it can be viewed as an act of domestic terrorism," said Ed Stoots, VDOF regional forester.

Evidence gathered at the scene indicates the fire was intentionally set. The fire burned so hot, it melted the vehicle's two front tires and everything in the cab, including the emergency radio. Officers from the Virginia State Police are investigating.

Until the transport can be replaced, Franklin County wildland fires will be covered by units from adjoining counties or until another temporary replacement can be found. This effectively lengthens the response time and increases the threat to lives and property within the county.



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08/27/2009

Dear Mr. Garrison:

I write to thank you for your service involving timber theft in Carroll County, Virginia, in August 2008. I particularly want to thank your Forester Technician Sr. David Edwards in the Galax, VA, office for his hard work in investigating and prosecuting the two individuals responsible for the theft.

I own a small farm in Carroll County and last August, I received word that timber was being illegally cut there. Two men had brought equipment in and started cutting poplar trees. Fortunately, I found out after the first cutting. I called the Sheriff's office and they responded quickly. The equipment was seized and your Technician was called in. I spent much of the next day with your Technician David Edwards as he developed the physical evidence. He measured, developed a footprint with plaster, found an additional tree that had been cut and in all, conducted a very thorough, professional investigation. His hard work resulted in assessment of civil penalties and a strong criminal case.

Two men were charged. The main culprit received 10 years in prison with 30 days active and the balance suspended on probation. Restitution (based on the careful investigation of David Edwards) has been paid. A strong message was sent to the community that this type of conduct will not be tolerated and the penalty will be onerous.

With my particular thanks to David Edwards, I want you to know how much I appreciate your efforts on my behalf and on behalf of the community where these men live and have victimized others.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Cash Martin, Superior Court Judge, State of North Carolina

**Submit articles to:  
Janet Muncy, editor**

**[janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov)**

The deadlines are as follows:

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Spring Issue -- February 1, 2010

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2010

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2010

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